(c) The steps taken by the Government to protect river dolphins include:—

(i) This species has been included in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and its hunting has been banned by law.

(ii) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal capture of dolphin reaches them.

(iii) The concerned range States of India have ben advised to follow the following norms:

(a) The fisheries department should regulate the mesh size of fishing nets to avoid accidental deaths of River Dolphin.

(b) The mosquite net should completely be prohibited for fishing in any part of the river.

(c) The fishermen should be instructed to avoid use of Dolphin oil to attract the fish for netting.

(d) Awareness compaign should be stepped up.

(e) Regular financial assistance is being provided to different institutions and universities for the study of its status, biology and other conservation aspects.

(f) National River Conservation Plan has also been launched for the habitat improvement.

Effluents Discharged by Sugar Mill in Cuddalore

3384. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a sugar mill in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu is discharging its, effluents into stream which joins Vellar river used by human beings and cattles for drinking and irrigation purposes;

(b) whether Government have directed the sugar mill to stop the discharge of effluents into the river through a narrow stream; and

(c) what action Government will take to make the sugar mill abide by the guidelines of the Ministry of Environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) According to the State Government, no sugar unit in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu is discharging effluent into any stream which joins Vellar river.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sugar Mills are being monitored by the Government through the Central Pollution Control Board/State Pollution Control Board and necessary action is taken against the defaulting units.

Pollution Caused by MRK Sugar Mills in Cuddalore

3385. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any survey to assests the damage being done to the atomosphere through ash and other pollutants of the MRK Sugar Mills in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu in the nearby villages;

(b) whether the sugar mill authorities or the State Pollution Control Board ever made any survey to assess as to how many people of the neighbouring villages are affected by the fly ash etc. of the mill every year; and

(c) whether Government have directed the MRK Sugar Mill to install pollution control devices as per norms to save the environment and the people of nearby villages?